

BOARD OF POLICE COMMISSIONERS

Minutes of the Regular Board of Police Commissioners Meeting Thursday, October 23, 2003

The regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners was held on Thursday, October 23, 2003, at 3:00 p.m., at Police Headquarters, 1300 Beaubien, Rm. 328-A, Detroit, MI 48226.

ATTENDANCE

Board Members Present

Willie E. Hampton (ABS)
Arthur Blackwell, II (ABS)
Erminia Ramirez
Edgar L. Vann, Jr.
Megan P. Norris

Department Personnel Present

AC Walter E. Shoulders
AC Ella Bully-Cummings
DC Harold Cureton
DC Gary Christian
Insp. Jamie Fields
Dir. Virgil Spight
Sgt. Kenneth Williams
Sgt. E.L. Stephens
Sgt. R. Miller
Sgt. Traci Hogan
P.O. D. Hall
P.O. C. Sanford
P.O. J. Collins
P.O. W. Huggins
P.O. J. Martin
P.O. K. Wilson
P.O. E. Porter
P.O. A. Vinson
P.O. Reggie Crawford
Atty. Nancy Ninowski

Board Staff Present

Dante' L. Goss, Executive Director
Denise R. Hooks, Attorney/Supv. Investigator
Arnold Sheard, Interim Chief Investigator
E. Lynise Bryant-Weekes, Personnel Director

RECORDERS

Jerome Adams
Felicia Hardaway

OTHERS PRESENT

Ms. Walters
WKBD, Channel 7 News
WDIV, Channel 4 News

1. CALL TO ORDER

Comm. called the regular meeting of the Detroit Board of Police Commissioners to order at 3:15 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

• **Thursday, September 18, 2003**

MOTION: Commissioner Vann made the motion to adopt the Resolution.

SECOND: Commissioner Ramirez seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

• **Thursday, October 16, 2003**

MOTION: Commissioner Vann made the motion to adopt the Resolution.

SECOND: Commissioner Ramirez seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

3. REPORT FROM THE CHAIR

Comm. Norris stated two weeks ago we had before us the revised Standards Operating Procedures for the Office of the Chief Investigator. There was some questions at that time and we had requested some additional information and we have received that additional information last week and we had a few other questions at that time, all of which have been answered.

Comm. Vann asked are they ones that came from DOJ?

Comm. Norris stated no, these are the revisions to be in compliance with the consent decree.

Comm. Vann stated in the future DOJ should know that we are expecting or our staff, or who ever is responsible to provide us with a side by side, so that we are in position to understand the policies and deal with them as we should. I don't know if that was DOJ, it is probably our own staff of making sure that those positions are highlighted for us and I don't want anything rammed down our throats. It think we should be working collaboratively and have full understanding of the policies that are going into effect because years from now we are going to be accountable for what we are doing.

MOTION: Commissioner Vann made the motion to approve the Executive Appointment.

SECOND: Commissioner Ramirez seconded the motion.

VOTE: All in attendance voted in the affirmative.

Comm. Norris stated along those lines Comm. Ramirez and I had a fairly lengthy meeting last week with Exec. Dir. Goss and Interim Chief Investigator Sheard, in which they brought up to speed on their efforts to bring the Commission and the Office of the Chief Investigator into compliance with the Consent Decree. We had discussed with them similar things that you raised Comm. Vann of our expectations of going forward. I will be making a presentation to the Board in the next couple weeks about what our obligations are under the Consent Decree, what we have already done, and how we are proceeding with making sure everyone one is comfortable with what we are doing. Comm. Ramirez and I was very pleased with how much has already gotten done. We will have some challenges in front of us in terms of complying, but we are not alone in that situation. We have already got some good ideas about how to address those challenges and we will bring them before the Board in the next couple of weeks.

4. SECRETARY REPORT – EX. DIR. GOSS

CITIZEN COMPLAINTS RECEIVED

	<u>This Week</u>	<u>Year to Date</u>
Weekly Count of Complaints:	17	940
Weekly Count of Allegations:	29	2,179

Arrest	2	95
Demeanor	11	631
Entry	0	48
Force	4	175
Harassment	1	73
Procedure	6	784
Property	1	116
Search	1	88
Service	3	169

Pending Cases

As of October 22, 2003, the Office of the Chief Investigator (OCI) has a total of **644 pending cases**, which include **133 cases** with an age of 0-45 days, **32 cases** with an age of 46-60 days, **117 cases** with an age of 61-90 days, and **132 cases** with an age of 91-120 days, **129 cases** with an age of 121 days – 6 months, **93 cases** with an age of 7-9 months, and 8 cases with an age of 10-12 months.

2002

During the past week: 30 **Year to Date:** 902

5. CHIEF'S REPORT

DETROIT POLICE DEPARTMENT
MIND'N OUR BUSINESS

The Detroit Police Department's mission is building a safer Detroit through community partnerships. Therefore, the following enforcement actions were conducted during the week of October 15-21, 2003:

ORGANIZED CRIME & GANGS DIVISION

The Conspiracy Intelligence and Vice Sections conducted four (4) enforcement actions. These enforcement actions reflected in the confiscation of 40 grams of cocaine with a street value of \$16,000, \$31,000 in U.S. currency and (14) miscellaneous ordinances were issued.

TWELFTH PRECINCT

On October 15, 2003, two subjects robbed a complainant at gunpoint in front of his home and escaped in a vehicle. The complainant observed the license plate number and gave the information to the 12th Precinct. On October 16, 2003,

officers of the 12th precinct responded to the address identified by the license plate. As a result of their investigation, both wanted subjects were arrested and charged with "Armed Robbery."

THIRTEENTH PRECINCT

Due to numerous complaints received from citizens and the Midland Alliance Development Group regarding filthy conditions in the 3400 block of Third, the 13th Precinct Environmental Officer took initiatives to change the conditions. On October 18, 2003, the officer, assisted by four employees from the City of Detroit Department of Public Works, removed 6 tons of refuse from the area.

Chief of Police Jerry A. Oliver, Sr.

6. PRESENTATION – POLICE ATHLETIC LEAGUE (P.A.L)

Dir. Virgil Spight and Jaye Margetson from the Police Athletic League gave the following PowerPoint presentation:

(See Attached)

Questions & Answers

Comm. Norris asked how many kids go through one P.A.L program every year?

Jaye Margetson stated about 10,000 kids because we have various programs for them to participate in.

Comm. Vann asked how is P.A.L. funded?

Dir. Spight stated primarily from private donations and with support from the Detroit Police Department.

Comm. Vann asked does that come from the police budget or the City's budget?

Dir. Spight stated it comes from the officers that are assigned to our staff.

Comm. Vann stated the exemplary work that P.A.L has done should be commended. He asked how many people do you have on staff?

Dir. Spight stated we have seven (7) police officers and two (2) sergeants.

Ms. Margetson stated we also have 1200 volunteers.

7. OTHER BUSINESS

Comm. Ramirez stated in regards to a newspaper article mentioned that we have a shortage of officers who speak a second language to help people that speak Spanish, Arabic, and etc. She asked how are officers assigned to a precinct after their orientation or are they on a rotated schedule?

AC Bully-Cummings stated they are not just rotated in the precincts, we put them in Investigative Operation Unit or the Traffic Enforcement Unit because those are one person vehicles and they have an opportunity to learn an awful lot from officers that man vehicles by themselves.

To answer your question they are assigned to the Police Academy for 18 months, so we have an opportunity to rotate them throughout the department, so that they could gain experience. In the end, I think what you are getting at is where we ultimately assign them. We try very hard and strategically to assign our officers to those communities in which if they have a second language we try to assign them to those particular areas. We don't have a lot of officers who speak a second language, but I am looking into increasing the number of officers that speak a second language.

Comm. Ramirez asked once they finish the orientation, they put in where they would like to go, even if the officer does speak Spanish and she/he request to be transferred to the 3rd or 4th precinct. If there is no position opened, the officer won't get transferred into that precinct. Is that how it goes.

AC Bully-Cummings stated we would get a number of different factors because we look at where the officer is assigned because we try not to assign police officers to the same precinct in which they live and we look at manpower requirements for that particular precinct. Considering that, if there is an opening Available and a member does not live in that particular precinct and it is a request, we do consider that. We have done that in the past, but what has happened overtime for example, if we have a Spanish speaking officer that is assigned to the 3rd or 4th Precinct, they could put in a transfer request after they have fulfilled their probationary period and we cannot make them stay there.

Comm. Ramirez asked what if we had two officers with the same seniority, one speaks Spanish and one speaks English. Does seniority supercede special skills or needs?

AC Bully-Cummings stated I don't understand the question.

Comm. Norris asked are there any grounds for assignment other than the

seniority ground?

Comm. Ramirez stated if everything is equal and the only difference is that one officer speaks Spanish and the native language in that particular precinct is Spanish.

AC Bully-Cummings stated then it would depend on who applied for the transfer first.

Comm. Ramirez asked what about the one who doesn't speak Spanish?

AC Bully-Cummings stated it would depend on whose name that appears on the transfer list first.

Comm. Ramirez asked is there anything for special skills or need for a transfer?

AC Bully-Cummings stated not for that specifically, if you are talking about a transfer to a precinct operation.

Comm. Ramirez asked is it on the table in regards to officers that do speak a second language, are they getting compensated for that?

AC Bully-Cummings stated I am not aware of any discussion regarding that, so I can't respond to that.

Comm. Norris asked is there extra compensation, for example, if someone has certain shooting expertise?

AC Shoulders stated no, I have never heard of that.

Comm. Norris asked so it is strictly longevity?

AC Shoulders stated longevity is totally different.

Comm. Norris asked is there anything in the competition system that rewards any special skills that somebody has or is it strictly when you come in and your rank?

AC Bully-Cummings stated the only category that I am aware of is police dispatchers.

Comm. Norris asked do they get some type of premiums?

AC Bully-Cummings stated they do.

Comm. Ramirez stated I think that if officers would be interested in learning a

second language if they know that they would receive compensation for it. Also, officers that do know a second language do not speak it because they know they will not be compensated for it.

AC Bully-Cummings stated compensation would have to be put on the table at the time the contracts are being negotiated. The awards for DPOA and LSA have already been issued and I don't think that was put on the table. When we had the Arabic Economic Forum, we did assign officers that spoke Arabic or were familiar with it to that detail.

Comm. Ramirez asked do other states compensate their officers that speak a second language.

AC Bully-Cummings stated I don't know, but we could get some information for you regarding that issue.

Comm. Norris stated when went to the Los Angeles Police Department, they did compensate officers for different things, but I am not sure if language is one of them.

8. ORAL COMMUNICATION FROM THE AUDIENCE

PO Reggie Crawford voiced his concern about Chief Oliver detainment at the Metro Airport on Saturday for having a weapon that wasn't registered in the State of Michigan, not being a sworn law enforcer, and not having a permit to carry a weapon has really compromised this police department and compromised the integrity of this police department.

Ms. Walters stated we need officers who speak a second language. We need to also have the children involved in PAL go in the communities to pull other children off the street and encourage others to join some of these programs. She also spoke about incidents involving mean attacking elderly people in the community.

Joyce Nabago voiced her concern that a full investigation is not being done to solve who murdered her father in his truck on May 17, 2003 on Wyoming and the Lodge Freeway. She also asked if some could explain the procedures for handling this matter.

Comm. Norris stated you could speak with DC Harold Cureton after the meeting or you could talk to Interim Chief Investigation Arnold Sheard after the meeting if you would like to file a complaint.

9. ANNOUNCEMENT OF NEXT MEETING

Thursday, October 30, 2003 @ 3:00 p.m.
Police Headquarters – Rm. 328-A
1300 Beaubien
Detroit, Michigan 48226

10. ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

DANTE' L. GOSS
Executive Director
Board of Police Commissioners

DLG/kdw